

Understanding Budget Planning and the Budget Process



Course Description

This **three-day** course is designed to provide a basic understanding of the Washington State budgetary process to attendees. The course provides a basic introduction to public sector budgeting concepts, with special emphasis on those elements integral to the state's budget cycle and concepts. The course emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of the participants in state budget development and execution; the importance of budgeting philosophies; the impacts on the end product of agency employees and managers; the limitations of state law, including Initiative 601; and the costing and pricing of governmental services and products. The objective of the course is to provide a familiarity with the state budgetary process and a comfort with complex fiscal concepts.

Learning Objectives

The instruction methodology relies on participant interaction through the use of case studies; instructor-led discussions of concepts; and high level guest speakers to provide an overview of the state budgeting system and state revenue forecasting. Additionally, the course includes a panel of state agency directors discussing the importance of the agency budgeting process and how employees can impact agency fiscal decisions. The course is structured to provide a discussion of the context of budgeting in the everyday political environment.

Professional Qualifications



Stan Finkelstein has been employed for the past 22 years by the ***Association of Washington Cities***, a statewide organization providing technical, training, insurance, and advocacy services to the state's cities and towns. Since June 1990, he has served as that organization's Executive Director. Prior to joining the Association in 1973, he served for five years as a research analyst for the Washington State House of Representatives Revenue Committee and the Legislative Council. Mr. Finkelstein has jointly, with Mr. Dick Thompson, taught public sector budgeting and public policy

courses, both at the Evergreen State College and for the Washington Management Service since 1982. Mr. Finkelstein received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois, and Master of Arts degree from the University of Washington.

Phone: (360) 753-4137 FAX: (360) 753-4896

Dick Thompson was born and raised in Everett, Washington. He attended Western Washington University, where he received his Bachelor's degree, and the University of Washington School of Law where he received his Juris Doctor degree. Dick's professional career includes private legal practice and 15 years in local government where he served as either city attorney or city manager in the cities of Snohomish, Everett and Puyallup. Dick served for eight years in the Gardner administration where he was director of the Department of Community Development, the governor's chief of staff, and the secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services where he served longer than any other secretary in the history of the agency. Dick is a part-time faculty member of the graduate program in public administration at both the University of Washington and the Evergreen State College.



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Course Description

This **three-day** course will provide a unique understanding of the Washington state budget process presented by instructors who have played major roles in that process. The participants will be provided with discussions and reading materials concerning the ethical issues which they must confront in the budget process. The course will present a complete analysis of the tools, techniques, and larger economic, social, demographic and political trends which shape that budget process. Participants in this course, upon completion, will have a full command of the various methods of communicating their perspectives on budget issues to others. The course will ensure that each participant is better prepared to fulfill their role in the budget process upon completion of the course.

Learning Objectives

- Provide the social, economic, and political context of the budget process in Washington state.
- Communicate an understanding of the techniques and methods used in the Washington state budget process to participants so that they may be able to more effectively carry out their functions within the budget process.
- Facilitate the development of the participants' communication skills about the budget context, process, and analytical tools to enable them to adequately present a budget proposal with appropriate justification in a setting comparable to what they would encounter in the budget process.

Professional Qualifications



Denny Heck is the President of TVW, a state version of C-SPAN which began service in April of 1995 and now serves more than 1.5 million people. He is the former Chief of Staff to Governor Gardner and also served 10 years in the State House of Representatives where he was the Majority Leader, Minority Floor Leader and Cochair of the Education Committee.

Phone: (360) 245-3431 or (360) 753-5574

FAX: No number available

Len McComb has played a major role in formulating public policy for the State of Washington during the past 15 years. He is currently serving the public as Director of the Department of Revenue.

As Director of the Office of Financial Management (OFM) from 1989 to 1993, he advised former Governor Booth Gardner on policy and fiscal issues facing the state. OFM prepares the Governor's state biennial budget proposal, monitors budget implementation, conducts policy research analysis, and prepares the Governor's legislative proposals.

Phone: (360) 245-3431 or (360) 753-5574

FAX: No number available

